**TSMUN Position Paper Guidelines and Requirements**

A position paper is the completion of all the hard work and research you as a delegate will be doing on your individual nations. The purpose of a position paper is to bring together information you have obtained from your background guide and through your individual research on your countries agenda and topics. Having gathered your information it is now up to you to analyze and determine a frame work for your nations view on the topics you have been given. With this framework in mind it is important that you highlight relevant major themes within each topic in order to provide a link between them and your nation’s individual positions.

Not only do position papers aid in making sense of your research but they are also the physical embodiment of the scale of your preparation as a delegate. A delegate who has a well written and full position paper is generally more prepared for the conference then a delegate without a position paper. Writing position papers helps delegates summarize and prepare for the conference ahead. Position papers are vital to successful caucusing and adequate debate. Once finished with your position paper you should have a clear and clean cut idea of your countries thoughts on each of your topics.

In conclusion position papers exist to portray a short but unclouded assessment of your nation’s policy on the given topics:

* Each committee topic must be addressed akin, and related to, the actual policies of the nation you represent
* Try to include the relevant views of your assigned country’s government as well as motives of non-governmental organization or (NGO)s.
* Please identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions
* The position paper should be two pages in length and should cover all the topics addressed in the Background Guide.

**The structure of your paper should include three things for each topic**

1. Briefly describe how the topic effects the entire world
2. Discuss how the topic effects your region
3. Elaborate on how the topic effects your nation specifically, and include brief suggestions or ideas on how the United Nations and your specific committee body can fix the topic Internationally, Regionally, and Nationally

OR…

1. A brief history of the topic in relation to your country
2. What your country is currently doing to address the topic
3. And what your country suggests as a **solution** that the committee should enact

**Format Specifications:**

* Maximum length is 2 pages for all topics
* Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format
* Single spaced
* 1 inch margins
* Text in 10-12 point Times New Roman Font
* Title Heading:
* 12pt Times New Roman Font, Centered
* The first line should contain only the full name of the representative nation (e.g. The
* United States of America)
* The second line should be skipped
* The third line should state “Positions for (your committee) (e.g. Positions for the
* General Assembly)
* A line should separate the header from the main body text
* Topic Headings:
* 12pt Times New Roman Font, Aligned Left
* Number each topic with Roman Numerals
* Each topic heading should state the title of the agenda topic
* Skip one line between headings and body text
* Indent each new paragraph and do not skip lines between paragraphs.

\*Position papers are not cited because they are written almost as if they are an actual policy statement coming from the nation’s ministry.

**Research tools and relevant documents**

1. The UN Charter
2. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights
3. UN Millennium Development Goals
4. Relevant treaties and declarations
5. CIA fact book for your individual nation
6. Statements or quotes by prominent UN Officials or politicians from your country
7. Your committees websites or pages

**Ask yourself...**

What alliances or groups is your country a member of?

Do they those countries agree or disagree with you on this issue?

Who are your allies?

What doe your nation hope to gain from this conference?

Why are these topic important to your nation?

\*Please note that plagiarism in its entirety is absolutely unacceptable at TSMUN.